

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 VO-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 /042 W
----- 074639 /21

R 210159Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7380
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, CASC, FR, VS
SUBJECT: FRENCH FLIGHT FROM SAIGON

1. DEC 16 FRENCH EVACUATION FLIGHT FROM SAIGON ARRIVED WITH TOTAL OF 176 PASSENGERS, OF WHOM THERE WERE 114 FRENCH, 50 VIETNAMESE, 2 CAMBODIANS, 9 TAWWANESE AND 1 HONG KONG.
 2. AIR FRANCE HAD ADVISED THAT AMONG PASSENGERS WOULD BE FOUR TAIWANESE, A MRS. SHUE HO LE AND FAMILY, FOR WHOM EMBASSY HAS AN APPROVED PETITION. HOWEVER, THEY WERE NOT ON FLIGHT, THE DECISION NOT TO ALLOW THEM TO BOARD HAVING APPARENTLY BEEN MADE BY VIETNAMESE AUTHORITIES SHORTLY BEFORE BOARDING.
 3. ONE PASSENGER NOTED THAT HE HAD RECEIVED EXIT VISA FOUR MONTHS PREVIOUSLY BUT HAD TO MAKE NUMBER OF PAYMENTS IN ORDER TO BE MANIFESTED FINALLY. OBVIOUSLY, OBTAINING AN EXIT VISA IS ONLY AN INTERMEDIATE STEP IN DEPARTURE PROCEDURE.
 4. SEVERAL PASSENGERS NOTED SHORTAGE OF RICE IN SAIGON
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IN RECENT WEEKS. STATE STORES ARE CARRYING ONLY LOWEST QUALITY RICE ("THE KIND WE USUALLY FEED THE ANIMALS") AND THAT IN LIMITED QUANTITIES. THEY OBSERVED THAT ONE CONTINUES TO FIND GOOD RICE ON THE BLACK MARKET, PLACED THERE BY THE COMMUNISTS THEMSELVES, BUT AT A HIGH PRICE. SOME SUGGESTED THAT A PORTION OF THE SOUTH'S GOOD RICE

IS UNDOUBTEDLY BEING EXPORTED OUTSIDE THE AREA, ALTHOUGH
THEY COULD ONLY GUESS AS TO ITS DESTINATION.
WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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